

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SCS-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 SS-14 L-02 H-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3189

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR CASC ET US (HANNA, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: HANNA CASE: ESPIONAGE AND OTHER CHARGES ARE FILED

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0911 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONS OFF VISITED SUBJECT MON AND WED, FEB 10 AND 12 ACCCOMPANIED BY ATTORNEY ATO SHIBRU SEIFU. AT WED MEETING, ATTORNEY WAS ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO HANNA ALONE AND WAS TOLD THAT PRELIMINARY HEARING WOULD BE THUR MORN, FEB 13, AT WHICH TIME FORMAL CHARGES WOULD BE FILED. HANNA ALSO GAVE ATTORNEY LENGTHY HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS WHICH EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ARREST IMPRISONMENT AND INTERROGATION DURING 34 DAYS. HE ALSO GAVE US, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN INDICATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT WHICH HE HAD SIGNED THE PREVIOUS WEEK. HE TOLD THAT THE STATEMENT HAD TO BEGIN WITH THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY HIM THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE DOCUMENT COULD BE USED AS EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IN COURT. HE TYPED THE STATEMENT HIMSELF, SOME 23 LEGAL SIZED PAGES , WHICH INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: (1) AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (2) FRIENDS HE HAD IN ASMARA (3) FRIENDS HE HAD IN ADDIS (HANNA HAD INDICATED IN EARLIER CONVERSATION THAT HE BELIEVED HE HAD BEEN WATCHED FOR SOME TIME AS AUTHORITIES KNEW NAMES OF FRIENDS WHO HAD LONG SINCE DEPARTED ETHIOPIA) (4) MONEY TRANSACTIONS HE HAD HAD BASED ON MEMORY (5) MONEY TRANSACTIONS SINCE 1964 BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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RECORDS WHICH THE AUTHORITIES HAD FOUND IN A SEARCH OF HIS APART-

MENT (6) GUNS AND RELATED ITEMS FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION (7) AN ACCOUNTING OF ITEMS RELATED TO RADIOS (8) AN ACCOUNTING OF MONEY AND EXPENSES (9) EFFORTS HE HAD MADE TO GET A WORK PERMIT, ETC.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED MOFA (AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR) AND RELAYED GIST FOREGOING. DIRECTOR SAID HE WOULD PURSUE MATTER PER UNDERSTANDING REACHED EARLIER (ADDIS 738, PARA2G), MATTER RAISED AGAIN WITH DIRECTOR FEB 14 (BEFORE EFORE INFO IN PARA 3 BELOW AVAILABLE) AND DIRECTOR SAID HE WAS BEING STONEWALLED BY PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

3. CONS OFF APPEARED AT COURT MORN FEB 13 AND WAS TOLD CASE WOULD NOT COME UP FOR ABOUT 2 HOURS. OFF RETURNED TO EMB AND WENT BACK TO COURT AT DESIGNATED TIME BUT CASE HAD ALREADY BEEN HEARD AND ATTORNEY AHD LEFT. CONS OFF UNABLE TO REACH ATTORNEY UNTIL FRI AFT, FEB 14, IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN CHARGES. CHARGES FILED AGAINST HANNA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ESPIONAGE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. ILLEGAL DEALING IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

3. ILLEGAL RESIDENCE IN ETHIOPIA

4. POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL ARMS

HANNA'S ATTORNEY INFORMED US HE HAD ADVISED HANNA TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY TO THESE CHARGES IF LATTER PUT FORWARD IN ONE PACKAGE. OTHERWISE, IF CHARGES CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY, DEFENDANT'S PLEA TO BE DEFERRED.

4. HANNA IS HOLDER OF AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT PRESUMABLY ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS TEACHING POSITION AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL, KAGNEW STATION, ASMARA. DEPT REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE ABOVE WITH PASSPORT OFFICE. WE UNABLE TO OBTAIN NUMBER AS PASSPORT BEING HELD BY AUTHORITIES AS EVIDENCE. HANNA ALSO STATED THAT HE PRESENTLY ON QUOTE OFFICIAL LEAVE UNQUOTE SINCE CLOSURE OF KAGNEW SCHOOL. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE VERIFY AND ADVISE US HIS PAST AND PRESENT OFFICIAL STATUS WITH DOD.

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5. NEXT COURT APPEARANCE SAT FEB 15 AT WHICH TIME ATTORNEY HAS STATED HE WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF CHARGES AND EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN WORDS AND PHRASES IN THE AMHARIC. NO DEFENSE WILL BE PRESENTED AT THIS TIME AS ATTORNEY WILL THEN WANT TO STUDY CHARGES BEFORE PREPARING LINE OF DEFENSE.

6. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING CONTACT FONMIN AND MOD AND HAS SPONKEN TO CHIEF PUBLIC SECURITY(WHO PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW THAT DEFENDANT

WOULD BE TRIED) TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. EMBASSY REGRETS THAT UNDERSTANDING SUGGESTED BY MOFA
AND AGREED BY US WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED.

B. USG MAY TAKE SERIOUS VIEW OF SUCH CHARGES,
WHICH WILL REACH IT ABOUT SAME TIME AS MAJOR EPMG
ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FOR ASMARA.

C. AT MINIMUM, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEFERRAL OF FURTHER
COURT PROCEEDINGS PENDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR QUIET
DISCUSSION OF CASE AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY MOFA.

7. ABOVE POINTS HAVE NOW BEEN MADE TO MOD WHO SAID HE WOULD CONSULT
TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

8. POSTSCRIPT. MOFA HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT FOREIGN
MINISTER HAS CONTACTED JUSTICE MINISTER AND THAT HANNAH'S CASE
WILL NOT RPT NOT COME TO COURT TOMORROW. MOFA INTENDS DISCUSS CASE
WITH US TOMORROW.

WYMAN

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